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21 December 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Rhodesia-Zambia-UK: [Zambia probably will press Britain to arrange to deliver petroleum during the next few weeks on a much larger scale than is now programmed.]

According to the US Embassy in Lusaka, the Zambian Government has decided that the amount of petroleum Britain plans to send requires too severe rationing. The government believes this would lead to the exodus of crucial European workers and consequent African unemployment and political instability.]

[Foreign Minister Kapwepwe is likely to advance the Zambian case in visits to London and Washington this week.]

[Britain has the capability to increase supplies of petroleum by airlift and other means which could considerably ease Zambia's rationing requirements. London, however, may feel the cost of an expanded airlift would be excessive for Britain to undertake alone. British representatives told the Zambians they would "discuss urgently" with the US what Washington could do to supplement the UK effort.]

[Rhodesia's decision to raise sharply the duty on coal and coke exported to Zambia's copperbelt will not curtail copper production. It will have the effect in the first instance of increasing non-sterling revenue to Rhodesia at Zambia's expense.]

[Algeria's break with London on 18 December completed a show of solidarity by all the more militant African states. Among the nine who have acted to date on the OAU resolution of 3 December are almost all those who a year ago helped provide military support for the Congolese rebels.]

(continued)

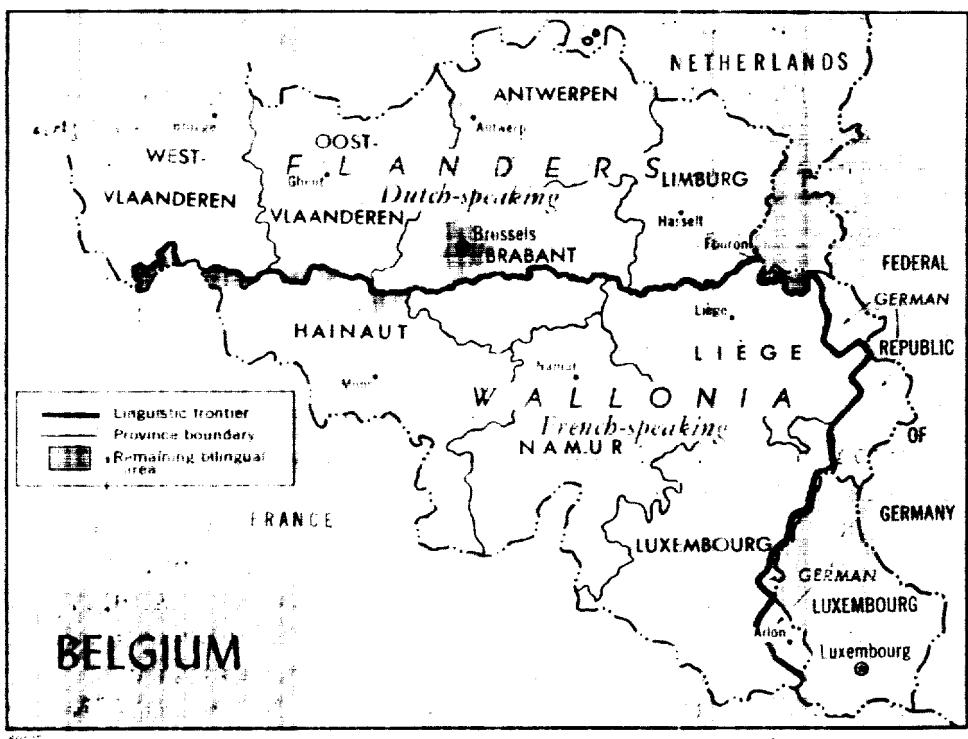
[In an effort to ease the pressure on the less radical majority of African countries Ethiopia's Emperor, Kenya's President Kenyatta, and Uganda's Obote, consulting in Nairobi on 19 December, called for an immediate meeting of African heads of state.

There has been little response to the Emperor's earlier call for consultations or to Cairo's request for an OAU foreign ministers meeting on 21 December.]

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Belgium: The Belgian Government is becoming increasingly alarmed over economic deterioration and political alienation in Wallonia, the French-speaking area.

The problem is acute at this time because of the difficulty which Belgium's coalition parties are having over next year's budget. The Social Christian Party is seeking to balance the budget by cutting expenditures for social security and education while the Socialists are pressing for increased taxes. A precarious agreement between the two appears to require the elimination of government subsidies to certain uneconomic coal mines in Wallonia. The closing of these mines would seriously affect the economy of the area.

The Harmel government is now assigning the highest priority to action to counter the drift toward federalism in Wallonia. The government initially hopes to attract American investment to provide employment there.

Flanders, the Dutch-speaking sector, has shown increasing prosperity in recent years in contrast to historically dominant Wallonia, and long-standing animosities between the two sectors appear to be again on the rise. Fifty persons were injured at Fouron on 19 December in the latest of a series of clashes between the two linguistic groups.

Communist China: Communist China is recalling its senior diplomatic representatives, apparently for a major foreign policy review.

Envoy to Algeria, Ceylon, Ghana, India, Mali, Poland, Rumania, Syria, and the UAR are scheduled to arrive in Peking by the end of December. There are indications that other Chinese diplomats may also be returning. A high-ranking Ceylonese official recently told a US diplomat in Accra that there is to be a big conclave of Chinese diplomats in China "soon."

Peking has in the past summoned many of its diplomats to China at one time for briefings and foreign policy assessment. The war in Vietnam will undoubtedly loom large in the present series of discussions. The past year has also been one of serious problems and frustrations for Peking's policy makers. Consultations may have been scheduled at this time to appraise the effectiveness of present Chinese tactics and operations abroad in support of Chinese foreign policy strategy, possibly in preparation for a National Peoples' Congress.

Comprehensive briefings on tactics could be an outgrowth of the major high-level party meeting held in Peking in October. At that meeting Chinese leaders apparently reaffirmed their determination to pursue a rigid foreign policy line.

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UK: [Foreign Secretary Stewart will shortly try to persuade his cabinet colleagues to endorse the existing EEC treaty and announce Britain's intention of seeking admission to the Common Market "at the earliest possible opportunity," according to a low-level Foreign Office source. The US Embassy in London has been aware of this trend in Foreign Office thinking, but doubts that the stage has yet been set for an active campaign by Stewart within the government. Prime Minister Wilson, with whom the decision rests, probably will be guided by domestic political considerations. British public opinion seems to be developing in favor of another try at entering the Common Market.]

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The Director, The Joint Staff

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